

In the President's budget, he wants to charge an additional fee on top of all of this. So he refuses to let them drill, and he wants to charge them for not drilling. This is something out of "Alice in Wonderland." More fees will mean producing less. We need to produce more. That is the way to get down the price at the pump—to produce more American energy.

Democrats refuse to admit that the percentage of leases that are actually being used today has never been higher. These are old leases. The Democrats' excuses on this issue are what I would put in the category of the Big Lie—the Big Lie to support an anti-American energy agenda. It is an agenda of less American energy, more taxes, and higher prices. It is the reason millions of American families today are struggling to get by. They are feeling the pain.

According to one estimate from economists at Bloomberg, American families will spend an extra \$5,200 this year—that is \$100 a week—compared to last year, just to stay even. It is all due to inflation in the cost of groceries, the cost of gas, the cost of goods. All of those things are squeezing American families. People are getting crushed. Their dreams are being crushed. Potential savings to send kids to college—that is going away. The savings for a vacation—that is going away. You have to empty your wallet to fill your tank under Joe Biden's energy policies, and the extra \$100 a week is on top of last year's inflation whereby people across the country said they were paying more and more to get less and less and that even if they got a raise, they couldn't keep up. They have kept falling further and further behind.

People across the country are already living paycheck to paycheck. They can't afford more price increases. They need real solutions, and they are not getting them from this White House. The answer seems pretty simple: Stop the reckless spending here in Washington. Unleash American energy.

President Biden needs to do a couple of things right away to unleash American energy.

The first is to have a long-term commitment to produce more American energy. Energy companies aren't going to invest if they think Joe Biden is going to shut them down tomorrow, and in a recent speech, he said that is what his goal is. He wants them to produce more today so he can shut them down tomorrow.

He does need to open up our Federal lands. We should auction off leases right away, and Joe Biden should approve those 4,600 drilling permits, which, today, are still stuck in limbo. He put them there and locked them in.

It takes months to get production up and running. You have to get the right permits. You have to tap the pipelines. You have to speed up the process for pipelines as well. Although we did see the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission—all of the Commissioners—

come to the Energy Committee, they don't seem to be very interested—at least the ones in the majority don't seem to be very interested—in speeding up the pipeline process or in allowing pipelines at all.

Finally, Joe Biden needs to stop attacking the hard-working men and women of this country who continue to produce energy, who go to work every day to keep the lights on and to keep us warm in winter. We need these workers out there, and Joe Biden needs to stop attacking them on a daily basis. They are the ones who can get us out of the crisis. They are the ones we need for the economic recovery.

Instead of spending our savings, it is time to unleash American energy. We need more American energy, and we need it now.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2022—Motion to Proceed

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 4373, under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 310, H.R. 4373, a bill making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Jack Reed, Robert Menendez, Michael F. Bennet, Tammy Baldwin, Tim Kaine, Angus S. King, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Tina Smith, Gary C. Peters, Tammy Duckworth, Christopher Murphy, Mark Kelly, Alex Padilla, Richard Blumenthal, Patty Murray, Elizabeth Warren.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 4373, a bill making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 47, nays 52, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 129 Leg.]

YEAS—47

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	Kelly	Schatz
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Sinema
Carper	Leahy	Smith
Casey	Lujan	Stabenow
Coons	Manchin	Tester
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	

NAYS—52

Barrasso	Grassley	Romney
Blackburn	Hagerty	Rounds
Blunt	Hawley	Rubio
Boozman	Hooven	Sasse
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Schumer
Burr	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Capito	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Shelby
Collins	Lankford	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Cotton	Lummis	Tillis
Cramer	Marshall	Toomey
Crapo	McConnell	Tuberville
Cruz	Moran	Wicker
Daines	Murkowski	Wyden
Ernst	Paul	Young
Fischer	Portman	
Graham	Risch	

NOT VOTING—1

Menendez

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY). The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. For the purposes of reconsideration, I change my vote to no.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 47, the nays are 52. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is not agreed to.

The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Mr. SCHUMER. I enter a motion to reconsider.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. And I ask unanimous consent to resume executive session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

H.R. 4373

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I want there to be no mistake about what just happened here on the Senate floor. Republicans blocked a bipartisan bill that would provide vaccines, testing, and therapeutics for the American people.

Yesterday, a group of Democrats and Republicans announced we had reached a bipartisan agreement for COVID relief funding, but today, a majority of Senate Republicans have blocked this critical and much-needed funding from going forward.

Vaccines, therapeutics, and testing were negotiated in good faith. And it should not—they should not be held hostage to extraneous, unrelated issues. This is too important for the health of the American people. But that seems precisely what some Republicans want to do.

This is a potentially devastating vote for every single American who is worried about the possibility of a new variant rearing its nasty head within a few months.

It is devastating for any American who, in the future, looks for a vaccine or a booster shot, only to be told supplies have run out.

It is devastating for anyone looking down the line to get tested because they feel sick or want their families safe and discover no tests are available. It is devastating for anyone who—God forbid—falls seriously ill but can't access lifesaving therapeutics because the Federal Government can't purchase new supplies because of the vote our colleagues on the Republican side of the aisle just took.

Too many Republicans seem to want to play politics at a time when we need to work together to pass legislation our country desperately needs. Republicans voted no on vaccines for kids. Republicans voted no on tests for new COVID variants. Republicans voted no on therapies to save lives and make us less sick.

Have we learned nothing from the last 2 years of living with this horrible disease? Have Republicans learned nothing about how lack of preparation could damage our economy? This money—the money that they rejected today—will go a long way to keeping our schools, our businesses, our churches, our communities running as normally as possible.

If we want to stay at normal, we need these dollars. Without these dollars, the risk of schools closing, of businesses closing, of public transportation closing is too large.

Should a future variant rear its nasty head—should a future variant rear its nasty head—Americans will know who voted against more funding. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

This was a \$10 billion agreement that was fully paid for. If there is another surge, it costs us 10 times that if we are behind the curve again.

I hope Republicans will get serious about this. It should not be so difficult

for them to do something so good and important for our country. There is still some time. I hope my Republican colleagues change their tune quickly.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

CHILD TAX CREDIT

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I appreciate the opportunity to address the Senate on an issue of real importance to our country and to families in Colorado and all across the United States.

Today, 120 economists wrote an open letter—in the face of the inflation that we are now facing as a nation, as a result of the economic growth that we are having coming out of this very deep recession, and the supply chain interruptions that have caused inflation, 120 economists sent an open letter saying:

The expanded Child Tax Credit is one of the easiest, most effective, and direct tools currently at our disposal to help families deal with the impact of inflation on family budgets.

The expert opinions about the causes of and solutions to rising inflation are as varied as the authors of this letter, but we agree on this: the expanded Child Tax Credit is too small to meaningfully increase inflation across the whole economy.

That means that that \$100 billion a year that the child tax credit costs to lift half the kids out of poverty isn't going to drive inflation in a \$21 trillion economy. That is one of the points these economists agreed on.

“[B]ut,” they wrote, “it will make an important difference for family budgets, especially families in the bottom half of the income spectrum. Monthly Child Tax Credit payments are a proven success at helping families keep up with the everyday costs of keeping a family afloat.”

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the open letter signed by 120 economists.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

OPEN LETTER FROM ECONOMISTS: EXTEND THE EXPANDED CHILD TAX CREDIT TO HELP FAMILIES KEEP UP WITH RISING COSTS

The cost of everything from food and fuel to housing and clothes is going up at the fastest pace in decades. Families need relief. The expanded Child Tax Credit is one of the easiest, most effective, and direct tools currently at our disposal to help families deal with the impact of inflation on family budgets. A recent analysis by Moody's found that inflation is costing the average family \$296 per month, with lower-income families being hit even harder. Each \$250 to \$300 monthly child tax credit payment can offset the toll inflation is taking.

The expert opinions about the causes of and solutions to rising inflation are as varied as the authors of this letter, but we agree on this: the expanded Child Tax Credit is too small to meaningfully increase inflation across the whole economy, but it will make an important difference for family budgets, especially families in the bottom half of the income spectrum. Monthly Child Tax Credit payments are a proven success at helping families keep up with the everyday costs of keeping a family afloat. With inflation causing those very costs to rise, the Child Tax

Credit is even more important now to help families meet their basic needs.

PARTIAL LIST OF SIGNERS

Dean Baker, Center for Economic and Policy Research; Nina Banks, Bucknell University; Chris Benner, University of California Santa Cruz; Alan Blinder, Princeton University; Indivar Dutta-Gupta, Georgetown Center on Poverty and Inequality; Teresa Ghilarducci, The New School for Social Research; Darrick Hamilton, The New School for Social Research; Samuel Hammond, Niskanen Center; Elaine Maag, Urban Institute/Tax Policy Center; Ioana Marinescu, University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice; Manuel Pastor, University of Southern California; Bob Pollin, University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Organizations listed for identification purposes only; views should be attributed to the individual, not the organization, its trustees, or funders.

FULL LIST OF SIGNERS (118)

Alan Aja, Randy Albelda, Mona Ali, Elizabeth Ananat, Eileen Appelbaum, Kate Bahn, Dean Baker, Nina Banks, Chris Benner, Eli Berman, Alan Blinder, Peter Bohmer, Elissa Braunstein, Howard Chernick, Israel Chora, Kimberly Christensen, Jennifer Cohen, Steve Cohn, Amy Crews Cutts, Sheldon Danziger.

Matthew Darling, Stephanie Didwania, Peter Dorman, Laura Dresser, Indivar Dutta-Gupta, Gary Dymski, Alison Earle, Todd Easton, Kevin Egan, Luciana Etcheverry, Doyne Farmer, Deborah M. Figart, Daniel Finn, Nancy Folbre, John Gallup, Teresa Ghilarducci, Fabio Ghironi, Jacob Goldin, Neva Goodwin, Ulla Grapard.

Mitchell Green, Erica Groshen, Robin Hahnel, Darrick Hamilton, Leah Hamilton, Samuel Hammond, Douglas Harris, Martin Hart-Landsberg, Marianne Hill, Emily Hoffman, Dorene Isenberg, Sarah Jacobson, Fadel Kaboub, Haider Khan, Mary King, Tim Koehlin, Andrew Kohen, Jeanne Koopman, Edith Kuiper, Ronald Lee.

Margaret Levenstein, Catherine Lynde, Elaine Maag, Arthur MacEwan, Ioana Marinescu, Thomas Masterson, Gabriel Mathy, Aine McCarthy, Elaine McCrate, John Miller, Kyle Moore, Katherine Moos, Sucharita Mukherjee, Michele Naples, Julie Nelson, Reynold Nesiba, Joseph Nowakowski, Stephen Nunez, Jennifer Olmsted, Lindsay Owens.

Lenore Palladino, Elizabeth Palley, Manuel Pastor, Francisco Perez, Chiara Piovani, Robert Pollin, Bina Pradhan, Kelsey Pukelis, Morgan Richards-Melamdir, Yana Rodgers, Leopoldo Rodriguez, Stephen Roll, Giacomo Rondina, Lygia Sabbag Fares, Max Sawicky, Peter Schaeffer, Juliet Schor, Elliott Sclar, Stephanie Seguino, Tim Smeeding.

Mary Stevenson, Samuel Stolper, Diana Strassmann, Kay E. Strong, Chris Tilly, Zdravka Todorova, Mariano Tarras, Dietrich Vollrath, Mark Votruba, David Weiman, Mark Weisbrot, Thomas Weisskopf, Jeannette Wicks-Lim, Kathryn Wilson, Rachel Wilson, Brenda Wyss, Yavuz Yasar, Andrew Zimbalist.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, this is no surprise to me. I was for the child tax credit before we had COVID because for the last 50 years, as I have said before on this floor, we had an economy that has worked really well for the top 10 percent of Americans and basically hasn't worked for anybody else.

We have some of the lowest economic mobility in the industrialized world. We have got some of the greatest income inequality in the industrialized world.